

POEM,

BY MR. JOSEPH ADDISON.

THE lofty pillars of the sky,
And spacious concave rais'd on high,
Spangled with stars, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim.
Th' unwearied sun, from day to day,
Pours knowledge with his golden ray,
And publishes to ev'ry land
The works of an Almighty hand.

Soon as the ev'ning shades prevail,
The moon takes up the wond'rous tale,
And nightly, to the list'ning earth,
Repeats the story of her birth:
Whilst all the stars that round her burn,
And all the planets in their turn,
Confirm the tidings as they roll,
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though in solemn silence all
Move round the dark terrestrial ball?
What though no real voice or sound
Amid their radiant orbs be found?
In reason's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice,
For ever singing as they shine,
"The hand that made us is divine."

to be bound at end in covers

A P P E N D I X

TO THE

E X T R A C T S

FROM THE

M I N U T E S A N D A D V I C E S

OF THE

Y E A R L Y M E E T I N G ,

O F

F R I E N D S

H E L D I N

L O N D O N .

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APPENDIX.

A P P E N D I X.

A P P E A L S.

IT is agreed, that the representatives of the Quarterly Meetings, who are to nominate the Committee for Appeals, shall meet for that purpose at the close of the first sitting of this Meeting, and report to the next sitting the names of the friends chosen. 1787.

B O O K S.

WE earnestly recommend to all, the frequent perusal of the Holy Scriptures, according to repeated exhortations; and we at this time also recommend the writings of our faithful predecessors, and the accounts that are published of their experiences, labours, travels, and sufferings in the cause of Christ. Those hours of leisure would be profitably employed in this manner, which are often wasted in reading light and trivial publications, calculated to gratify the vain imagination, and to feed that disposition that is always hankering after some new thing. — 1789. P. E.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

IN order to promote an increasing care in these * respects, we entreat all duly to consider that by being accessory, in any degree, to the continuance of such unlawful practices, even by buying for private use only, encouragement is given to perjury and bloodshed, the frequent attendants of smuggling. 1786. W. E.

The principle of truth calls us out of contention, it even seeks not its own end by means productive of animosity; much less therefore should its professors indulge themselves in strife, for objects of a perishing nature: such are the desires of power and advancement, which are too often the incitements to contested elections; and were even the purpose purer, we know the means are polluted. We know that drunkenness, riot, and confusion, are frequently attendant on these contests, and how can any in profession with us, expose their minds, which it is their duty to keep unspotted of the world, to such contamination. 1790. W. E.

* See Minute 1757, page 22.

We are concerned to find continued complaints respecting the evading of certain stamps, and substituting words to contain the effect of a receipt, without its form.—We are also informed, that some dealers in articles charged with stamps, have sold them without; alleging that their trade would be impaired by a compliance with the law. But, dear Friends, we must not, because others by dishonesty invade our profit, become dishonest ourselves to preserve it. Let then those concerned in practices so reproachful, be duly admonished, and dealt with according to gospel order. 1790. W. E.

DEFAMATION AND DETRACTION.

THE preservation of love is a duty in every state of religious attainment, and did we faithfully observe the great Master's precept of doing to others as we would they should do to us, its practice would be easy. Detraction and enmity would then be destroyed in the seed, and that excellent Christian Charity, recommended by the Apostle, prevail over all. 1789. P. E.

DISCIPLINE AND MEETINGS FOR DISCIPLINE.

THIS Meeting feels a lively concern to remind the several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, that the intention of directing sundry queries to be answered relative to the conduct of individuals, in the several branches of our Christian testimony, is not only to be informed of the state thereof, but also to impress on their minds a profitable examination of themselves, how far they act consistent with their religious profession; and also to stir up elders, overseers, and other concerned friends, to the faithful discharge of their duty in administering early counsel and ad-

monition when necessary; and where private labour may prove ineffectual, to report in due time to the Monthly Meetings, according as the nature of cases may require. We also recommend, that friends earnestly endeavour to prevail on their members generally (the youth as well as others) more especially to attend when the queries are to be considered and answered in the respective meetings, and that the answers be drawn up therein, under a weighty consideration of the state thereof.

We further earnestly recommend to the Quarterly Meetings, to allow sufficient time for transacting the important business which may come before them, and to avoid unnecessary adjournments to distant times and places; but when the business cannot be properly accomplished at one sitting, that the adjournments may be held on the same or next succeeding day. 1787.

G A M I N G.

THIS Meeting has been deeply affected with the reproach brought on Truth and Friends, by the misconduct of some under our name, who, through an evil covetousness, have engaged in illegal dealings in the Publick Stocks, or Government Securities; which is a species of gaming, and altogether inconsistent with our religious principles. In order therefore to prevent, as much as may be, such disgraceful practices, we do advise, that where any Member of our Society is found to be guilty thereof, either as Principal, Agent, or Broker, Monthly Meetings do not fail tenderly to advise and deal with such; and if they cannot bring him to a sense of his misconduct, and induce him to relinquish the practice, to testify against and disown him. 1788.

M A R R I A G E.

IT is the judgment of this Meeting, that in proceedings for Marriage, the Man, after having, with the necessary certificates respecting

pecting the consent of parents and parties, laid his intention of marriage before his own Men's Monthly Meeting, and obtained a notification of his having so done, signed by the clerk, may, without waiting for the certificate of his clearness, proceed with the Woman to the Monthly Meeting to which she belongs, where they are to propose their intentions to the Women's and Men's Meetings. His certificate must however be produced to the Monthly Meeting to which the Woman belongs at their second appearance, and declaration of the continuance of their intentions: and in such certificate it shall not in future be needful to mention more than membership, and clearness from all others. Monthly Meetings are to take care that publication be made in the meeting to which the Man belongs, before a certificate be granted him. It is also our judgment, that it is unnecessary that parties intending to marry, appear before Preparative Meetings. 1790.

MEETINGS OF MINISTERS AND ELDERS.

THE Monthly Meetings of Ministers and Elders should transmit to the Quarterly Meetings of Ministers and Elders, a list of the names of their Members, to be kept there on record. 1784.

This Meeting recommends to the several Quarterly Meetings to take care in future that the representatives to the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, be such as are in the station of elders, or ministers where elders cannot be found: and that Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Ministers and Elders be very cautious how they admit any besides those who are proper members, (viz. ministers in unity with their respective meetings, and appointed elders) to sit in those meetings; that the freedom necessary to be exercised therein, in a watchful care over each other, may not be interrupted. 1786.

The proposition that in future the answers be transmitted from the Quarterly to the

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Yearly Meetings of Ministers and Elders, without passing through the Quarterly Meetings for Discipline, is agreed to by this Meeting, with this provision, that the same may be called for by the said Quarterly Meetings. Nevertheless, it is not intended to discontinue the practice of reporting to the Meetings for Discipline how such select meetings have been conducted. 1786.

The manner of appointing Representatives to the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, coming again under the weighty consideration of this Meeting, it is recommended that the same be in future made in the select Quarterly Meetings; and that the names of such friends as are so appointed, be reported to the Quarterly Meetings for Discipline; the said Quarterly Meetings being at liberty to make the men friends so appointed a part of the representatives to the Yearly Meeting at large, or to appoint the usual number of representatives exclusive of them. 1790.

This Meeting agrees, that Certificates from the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders be signed by the Clerk only. 1792.

MINISTERS AND ELDERS.

It is agreed, in order to prevent an improper choice of Elders, that Monthly Meetings, when a nomination becomes necessary, should refer the matter to the solid consideration of a committee of judicious friends; who are to propose to the Monthly Meeting such persons as they think suitable, agreeably to the minute of 1761, (page 160). And as it appears that the advice given by this Meeting in 1773, (page 145) has not always been duly attended to, there being great reason to fear that in some places improper persons have been hastily recommended, and that some Meetings have neglected to recommend those who are deserving of such notice; we therefore earnestly desire that Monthly Meetings will duly observe the advices contained in that minute. 1784.

Advices

Advices to Ministers and Elders.

1. Let all be cautious of using unnecessary preambles, and of laying too great stress on their testimony, by too positively asserting a Divine motion; the baptizing power of Truth accompanying the words, being the true evidence.

2. Let all be careful not to misquote or misapply the Holy Scriptures; and be frequent in reading them.

3. Let Ministers be careful how they enter upon disputed points in their testimony; or make such objections as they do not clearly answer; or give repeated expectations of coming to a conclusion.

4. Let all be cautious of hurting meetings by unnecessary additions towards the conclusion, when the meeting was left well before.

5. Let all avoid unbecoming tones, sounds, gestures, and all affectation; which are not agreeable to Christian gravity.

6. Men and Women are advised against travelling as companions in the work of the ministry, to avoid all occasions of offence.

7. Let all beware of too much familiarity, which, biasing the judgment, and producing an undue attachment, tends to hurt.

8. Let Ministering Friends be careful not to hurt each others service in meetings; but let every one have a tender regard for others. Let nothing be offered with a view to popularity, but in humility, and the fear of the Lord.

9. Let none run, in their own wills, to disturb or interrupt any people in their worship; or presume to prophesy, in their own spirits, against any nation, town, city, people, or person.

10. Let Ministers, when they travel in the service of truth, be careful not to make their visits burthen some, or the gospel chargeable.

11. Let Ministers and Elders be careful to keep their whole conversation unspotted, being examples of meekness, temperance, patience, and charity.

12. And lastly, as prayer and thanksgiving are an especial part of worship, they must be performed in spirit and in truth, with a right understanding seasoned with grace. Therefore let Ministers be careful how and what they offer in prayer, avoiding many words and repetitions; and let all be cautious of too often repeating the high and holy name of God, or his attributes, by a long conclusion: neither let prayer be in a formal and customary way to conclude a meeting, nor without an awful sense of Divine influence. 1792.

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

THIS Meeting is of the judgment that the offices of elder and overseer are distinct, and do not coincide in one person, unless appointed to each; and that overseers, under that appointment only, are not entitled to sit in Meetings of Ministers and Elders: and it is the judgment of this Meeting, that the appointment of overseers should be made as directed by the Yearly Meeting in 1784, in like manner as in the choice of Elders. 1789.

The several Monthly Meetings are desired to send up written accounts respecting the decease of ministering friends, to their respective Spring Quarterly Meetings, for their approbation; in order that the Quarterly Meeting may forward them, if approved, to the Yearly Meeting, together with the answers to the queries. 1791.

MOURNING HABITS.

HAVING observed that, in imitation of a custom prevailing of late in this nation, divers under our religious profession have discouraged the female sex from attending the burial of their relations, by not inviting them

them thereto with the men; which is neither agreeable to the practice of our worthy predecessors, nor to the decent token of respect, which, if health permits, is becoming both sexes, to shew for their deceased relations and friends, on these solemn occasions; we are therefore concerned to recommend that friends in general, and ministers, elders and overseers in particular, would tenderly advise against any conformity amongst us, with the modern general custom of the world in this respect; as well as in that of putting on black, or any other garments approaching to that colour, by way of distinction on such occasions; which we as a people are well known to have always had a testimony against. 1782.

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.

We feel it our present concern to caution Friends to be very circumspect, how they remove themselves and families, from the places of their residence; it having been observed that the dissolving of old and the forming of new connections, have in many instances been attended with effects prejudicial to a growth in the Truth, and the service thereof, both in the heads and younger branches of families; especially where the inclination to such removals hath originated in worldly motives. And as the growth and establishment of children in a religious conversation, being the most interesting, ought to be the principal engagement of the minds of parents; we desire that in putting them forward in a way of life, the probable effect it may have on their minds be the chief object in view. We recommend Friends, both young and old, in these cases to give close attention to the pointings of Divine Wisdom, and also timely to consult experienced friends, previously to their fixing a resolution of changing their situation. 1784. P. E.

Q U E R I E S.

IT is agreed that the Queries now settled shall be answered at the times and in the manner now directed, and that no others be used without leave of this Meeting. 1791.

I. It is agreed that in future there shall be but one set of Queries for the Yearly and Quarterly Meetings of men friends, in the following terms; and that the first twelve of these Queries be answered in writing to the Quarterly Meetings in the Spring, and from thence to the Yearly Meeting; that the first, third, tenth, thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth, be answered in writing to the Quarterly Meeting in Autumn; also that the first, third, tenth, and fourteenth, be answered in writing to the other two Quarterly Meetings.

1. Are Meetings for Worship and Discipline kept up, and do Friends attend them duly, and at the time appointed; and do they avoid all unbecoming behaviour therein?

2. Is there among you any growth in the Truth; and hath any convincement appeared since last year?

3. Are friends preserved in love towards each other; if differences arise, is due care taken speedily to end them; and are Friends careful to avoid, and discourage, tale-bearing and detraction?

4. Do friends endeavour by example and precept to train up their children, servants, and those under their care, in a religious life and conversation, consistent with our Christian profession; in the frequent reading of the Holy Scriptures, and in plainness of speech, behaviour, and apparel: and are the remiss duly admonished?

5. Are friends just in their dealings, and punctual in fulfilling their engagements; and are they annually advised carefully to inspect the state of their affairs once in the year?

6. Are friends careful to avoid all vain sports and places of diversion, gaming, all unnecessary frequenting of taverns and other publick-houses, excess in drinking, and intemperance of every kind?

7. Do

7. Do friends bear a faithful and Christian testimony against receiving and paying tithes, priest's demands, and those called church-rates: And are the unfaithful duly admonished?

8. Are friends faithful in our testimony against bearing arms, and being in any manner concerned in the militia, in privateers, letters of marque, or armed vessels, or dealing in prize goods?

9. Are friends clear of defrauding the King of his customs, duties, and excise, and of using or dealing in, goods suspected to be run?

10. Are the necessities of the Poor among you properly inspected and relieved; and is good care taken of the education of their offspring?

11. Have any meetings been settled, discontinued, or united since last year?

12. Are there any friends prisoners for our testimonies, and if any one hath died a prisoner, or been discharged since last year; when and how?

13. Is early care taken to admonish such as appear inclinable to marry in a manner contrary to the rules of our Society, and to deal with such as persist in refusing to take counsel?

14. Have you two or more faithful friends appointed by the Monthly Meeting, as Overseers in each particular meeting? Are the rules respecting removals duly observed? And is due care taken when any thing appears amiss, that the rules of our discipline be timely and impartially put in practice?

15. Do you keep a record of the Prosecutions and Sufferings of your members? Is due care taken to register all Marriages, Births, and Burials? Are the Titles of your Meeting-houses, Burial-grounds, &c. duly preserved and recorded? And are all Legacies and Donations properly secured and recorded, and duly applied?

II. It is agreed that the following be the Queries for the Women's Meetings; and that these Queries be answered in writing to the Women's Quarterly Meetings

in the Spring, and from thence to their Yearly Meeting; also that the first, second, eighth, and ninth be answered in writing to the other three Quarterly Meetings.

1. Do friends attend Meetings for Worship and Discipline duly, and at the time appointed, and do they avoid all unbecoming behaviour therein?

2. Are friends preserved in love towards each other; and are they careful to avoid, and discourage, tale-bearing and detraction?

3. Do friends endeavour, by example and precept, to train up their children, servants, and those under their care, in a religious life and conversation, consistent with our Christian profession; in the frequent reading of the Holy Scriptures; and in plainness of speech, behaviour, and apparel: and are the remiss duly admonished?

4. Do friends bear a faithful and Christian Testimony against receiving and paying tithes, priest's demands, and those called church-rates?

5. Are friends careful to avoid all vain sports and places of diversion, gaming, excess in drinking, and intemperance of every kind?

6. Are friends just in their dealings, and punctual in fulfilling their engagements?

7. Is early care taken to admonish such as appear inclinable to marry in a manner contrary to the rules of our Society; and to report such as persist in refusing to take counsel to the Men's Meeting in due time?

8. Are the necessities of the poor among you properly inspected and relieved; and is good care taken of the education of their offspring?

9. Have you two or more faithful friends appointed by the Monthly Meeting, as Overseers in each particular meeting; and is the part of the discipline committed to your care, timely and impartially exercised?

III. It is agreed that the following be the Queries for the Meetings of Ministers and Elders; and that these be answered in writing to the Quarterly Meetings of Ministers and Elders

Elders in the Spring and in Autumn, and from the former to the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders; and also that the second and fourth be answered in like manner to the other two Quarterly Meetings, and that the rest be then read.

1. Do any friends travel, from or among you, in the work of the ministry, without certificates from the Monthly Meetings to which they belong, or against their advice?

2. Are Ministers and Elders diligent in attending their meetings for worship and discipline; and in bringing their families with them?

3. Do any overcharge themselves with business to the hindrance of their service?

4. Are they preserved in love and unity one with another, harmoniously labouring for the advancement of Truth, and the spreading thereof?

5. Are they careful to rule their own houses well, bringing up their families in plainness of dress and language, and in true moderation; and are they good examples in these respects themselves?

6. Is care taken tenderly to admonish such as appear inconsistent in ministry or conduct?

7. Are the Advices of the Yearly Meeting to Ministers and Elders, read at least once every year, in your Monthly and Quarterly Meetings?

IV. It is agreed that the following Advices be read at least once in a year, in the Men's and Women's Quarterly and Monthly Meetings.

Friends are advised

To make their wills, and settle their outward affairs, in time of health.

To observe due moderation in the furniture of their houses, and to avoid superfluity in their manner of living.

To attend to the limitations of truth in the pursuit after wealth.

To be careful to place out children, of all degrees, amongst those friends whose care and

example will be most likely to conduce to their safety; and not to demand exorbitant apprentice-fees, lest they frustrate the care of friends in this respect; and to prefer such servants and apprentices as are members of our society.

To endeavour to make way for their servants to attend meetings, and to encourage them therein.

To guard carefully against the introduction of pernicious books into their families.

To refrain from being concerned in lotteries, which this meeting considers as a species of gaming.

Finally, it is recommended that all friends watch over one another for good; that when occasions of uneasiness first appear in any, they may be treated with in privacy and tenderness, before the matter be communicated to another. Thus the hands of those concerned in the further exercise of the discipline, will not be weakened by a consciousness of their having themselves departed from the true order of the gospel. And Friends every where are advised to endeavour to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

REMOVALS AND SETTLEMENTS.

IT is recommended that all young persons removing into the compass of Monthly Meetings to which they do not belong, whether as apprentices, servants, or otherwise, shall be recommended to the care of the meetings into which they so remove, agreeably to former advices. 1782.

It is agreed, that in future single men and women servants, shall not gain a settlement by serving one year in one place; unless a certificate of removal, or other usual recommendation, be sent within the year by the Monthly Meeting from whence they remove, to that to which they remove, or to a known and acknowledged member thereof. And it is also agreed, that such single men and women servants, so recommended, shall not

not become members of the Monthly Meeting in which they so serve, so as to be entitled to relief as poor friends, until they have served one year as aforesaid, according to the fifth rule of settlement. If such servant or servants remove from the Monthly Meeting to which they have been recommended by certificate, as aforesaid, before the expiration of their year's servitude, the said Monthly Meeting shall either endorse the certificate they received, or grant another, as the case may require; and if they neglect so to do, the servant so removing shall be deemed the member of the Monthly Meeting so neglecting: nevertheless the granting of such certificate, shall not entitle such servants to any claim of membership on the Monthly Meeting so granting it.

It is further agreed, that apprentices shall not in future gain a settlement, until they have served forty days after the delivery of a certificate or other usual recommendation, in manner aforesaid. 1786.

It is the judgment of this Meeting, that the right of membership of children, mentioned in the minutes of 1769 and 1771 (page 214.), under the head Removals and Settlements, does not extend to the children of marriages contrary to the rules of our society, and that the children of such marriages are not members, until received by the Monthly Meetings to which the parent or parents did belong. 1786.

It is the judgment of this meeting, that the words *Notice* and *Care*, comprehend every care which Monthly Meetings are entrusted with over their members, except being subject to the expense of maintenance; notwithstanding any thing to the contrary in the first, seventh, or any other rule now in force respecting proceedings in relation to marriage, or any rule respecting removals and settlements, or dealing with offenders. 1789.

It appearing that the minute of 1786, respecting the offspring of marriages contrary to the rules of our society, has been differently understood in some instances, as to its retrospective operation; this meeting judges

it necessary to declare, that it was not intended by the said minute to exclude from membership, persons under that description, who had frequented our meetings for worship and discipline, or had been in any manner acknowledged as members of our society. And as the children of such marriages, notwithstanding the readmission into membership of the father or mother, may be equally the claim of two societies in right of their parents, and cannot therefore exclusively belong by birth-right to either, it is the judgment of this Meeting that Monthly Meetings ought to extend a tender care towards such, and admit them into membership at the discretion of the said meetings, either in their infancy or more advanced years, according to the particular circumstances of their respective situations. 1789.

It is the judgment of this Meeting, that it will not be expedient or safe, to omit in certificates all notice of the conduct of friends who remove; nevertheless, as it also seems improper to confine Monthly Meetings in every case, to the use of the precise terms, *Sober* and *Orderly*; this meeting directs, that they shall be at liberty to use such other terms in describing the conduct and conversation of their Members, as circumstances may require, and Truth dictate: avoiding in all cases such exposure of past errors, as is inconsistent with true gospel order. 1790.

No friend shall henceforth become entitled to a settlement in any Monthly Meeting, by contributing to, or being employed in any service of, the Church, by the said Meeting; notwithstanding any thing contained in the second, third or any rule of settlement to the contrary. 1790.

We recommend to all Monthly Meetings, that on receiving a certificate, a few friends be appointed to visit the persons removed. This will furnish occasion for encouraging the appearances of good, exhorting against those of a contrary tendency, and may be the introduction of an acquaintance fruitful of future advantage. 1790, W. E.

It

It is agreed, that a certificate of removal, signed by the Clerk as such, and three other friends of the Monthly Meeting from which the party removes, shall be deemed duly authenticated; and when it respects a female that the signature of the Clerk of the Women's Meeting, in and on behalf of the same, be added; but that certificates on behalf of persons removing to foreign parts be signed by the meeting at large. 1791.

SUFFERINGS.

THIS Meeting, having weightily considered the propriety of receiving and recording the Sufferings of friends, for not illuminating their houses, and not shutting up their shops, on publick occasions, is of the judgment that friends should send up an account of such Sufferings, from time to time, to this Meeting. 1789.

TRADE.

DEAR Friends, the continuance of covetousness and of earthly-mindedness in many, calls upon us to endeavour to awaken such as are infected with it, to a sense of what they are pursuing, and at what price. The Great Master hath shewn the unprofitableness of the whole world, compared with one immortal soul; and yet many are pursuing a delusive portion of it, at the expense of their souls interests. But were all thus awakened, what place would be found for extensive schemes in trade, and fictitious credit to support them? To mix with the spirit of the world in the pursuit of gain, would then be a subject of dread; and contentment under the allotment of Providence, a sure means of preservation. 1788. P. E.

WAR.

IF any be concerned in fabricating or selling instruments of war, let them be treated with in love; and if by this unreclaimed, let them be further dealt with as those whom we cannot own. And we intreat that when warlike preparations are making, friends be watchful lest any be drawn into loans, arming or letting out their ships or vessels, or otherwise promoting the destruction of the human species. 1790. W. E.

WOMEN'S MEETINGS.

THIS Meeting agrees that the Meeting of Women Friends held annually in this city, be at liberty to correspond, in writing, with the Quarterly Meetings of Women Friends; to receive accounts from them, and to issue such advice as in the wisdom of truth from time to time may appear necessary, and conducive to their mutual edification: for this purpose it will be expedient that the said meeting be a meeting of record, and be denominated The Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in London. Yet such meeting is not to be so far considered a meeting of discipline, as to make rules, nor yet alter the present queries, without the concurrence of this Meeting. 1784.

This meeting taking into consideration the service of the Women's Yearly Meeting, and observing that the minute of 1784, by which it was established, doth not sufficiently set forth the proper constitution of such a meeting, agrees that the several Quarterly Meetings of Women Friends, are at liberty to appoint two or more of their members to meet in London at the time of holding this Meeting; nevertheless so as that the number from any Women's Quarterly Meeting, shall not exceed that of the representatives allowed to be appointed by the Men's Quarterly Meeting for the same district; which meeting

meeting of women so appointed shall be denominated The Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in London. And this Meeting is further of the judgment, that the several Women's Quarterly Meetings, should annually send to their Yearly Meeting, answers in writing to the queries proper to the Women Friends. But the said Yearly Meeting is not at liberty to make or alter any rules of discipline, or queries. 1790.

On considering the nature and extent of the discipline committed to Women Friends, it is our judgment, that its Nature is, as expressed by the minutes of the Yearly Meeting, to come up to the help of their brethren in the discipline of the Church.

As to its Extent; it is within their allotment,

1. To inspect and relieve the wants of the poor of their own sex; and to apply to the Men's Meetings for the means, and for their concurrence, as cases shall require.

2. To take cognizance of proposals for marriage, conformably to the rules on that subject.

3. They are to join in certificates of removal for women friends according to the minute of 1791. In order whereto, in cases of the removal of women friends, the Women's Monthly Meeting, on notice from the Men's Meeting, is to appoint two of their members to make the necessary inquiry, and to report the result thereof to the friends appointed to inquire by the Men's Meeting.

4. They are also, on receiving from the Men's Meeting certificates for women friends, to make appointments to visit the persons removed into the compass of the Monthly Meeting, according to the recommendation of the written epistle of 1790.

5. They are to have Overseers, agreeably to their ninth query.—In order to which, when it is necessary that women overseers be appointed, the Women's Monthly Meeting is to appoint a committee of judicious friends, who are to join a committee to be appointed by the Men's Monthly Meeting. The joint committee is to nominate the overseers, and the names of the women

then nominated are to be reported to the Women's Monthly Meeting, and after being approved by the said Meeting, sent to the Men's Meeting for confirmation.

6. The Women's Monthly Meeting, at the desire of the Men's Monthly Meeting, should make appointments to join the men in visiting such women as apply for admission, or reinstatement, into membership; and the report of the committee is to be made to the Men's Monthly Meeting, which is to inform the Women's Meeting of the conclusion.

7. In cases of delinquency of women friends, the Women's Monthly Meeting, when, after due exercise of private labour, they believe it necessary to record any of their members as delinquents, are to inform the Men's Meeting thereof. They are then, if the men do not take up the matter exclusively, to proceed to deal with the delinquent, and report the result of their labours to the Men's Meeting; but if the Men's Meeting should see it expedient to join them in the dealing, the report of the joint committee is to be made to the Men's Meeting, which, in either case, is to inform the Women's Meeting of its determination. No proceedings of the women only, are to be a sufficient ground for a testimony of disownment. 1792.

YEARLY MEETING.

IT is agreed that the Representatives of the Quarterly Meetings of the district which is to chuse the Clerk, do not meet for that purpose until the close of the first sitting of the Meeting, and that they report the friend chosen to the next sitting, previous to any other business; also that the former clerk do not consider himself discharged until another be chosen. 1787.

This Meeting being informed that the practice of arming ships prevails in some trades in time of peace, directs that in future the

the whole of the eleventh query be answered by the several Quarterly Meetings. 1788.

Having solidly considered the several propositions relative to the holding of the Yearly Meeting, at a fixed time in future, and not as now at a moveable one, it is agreed that the same commence on the day next succeeding the third first day in the fifth month in each year, till otherwise ordered. The Meeting of Ministers and Elders to begin on the seventh day preceding, at the usual hour. 1789.

This Meeting directs, that the names of the Representatives to this Meeting, and also to the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, be entered under the answers to the respective queries, previously to the signatures of the clerks of the several Quarterly Meetings. 1790.

YEARLY MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP.

THIS Meeting agrees that the Circular Yearly Meeting for the Western Counties be discontinued. 1787.

YOUTH.

FREQUENT and earnest have been the advices of former Yearly Meetings, that all under our name may avoid the attendance of vain sports and places of amusement, which divert the mind from serious reflection, and incline it to wantonness and vanity. Understanding that diversions of this kind are spreading, and playhouses increasing in various places, we are concerned to renew a caution on this subject; being clearly convinced of the pernicious effects of these evil practices, the inventions of degenerate men, tending to stifle the convictions of the Divine Witness in the conscience, and set men at ease in a state of alienation from God. — “Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, touch not the unclean thing:” 2 COR. vi. 17. ever bearing in mind that although “The young man may rejoice in his youth, and let his heart cheer him in the days of his youth, walking in the ways of his heart and in the sight of his eyes, yet for all these things God will bring into judgment.” ECCLES. xi. 19. 1785. P. E.